

PLAN AND ORGANIZE A HASTY SEARCH

CONDITIONS

You are leading a team in the field, and are assigned to hasty search trails and linear features in an area.

OBJECTIVES

Within 10 minutes, plan and organize an effective team hasty search of the assigned area.

TRAINING AND EVALUATION

Training Outline

1. Efficiency is important to cover a large search area quickly. It takes many searchers a long time to search one square mile, especially in a line search, and it is not wise to waste resources this way when many survivors are found by searching high probability areas. This could be because the search target is believed to be mobile and looking for help, or because the search target is believed to be located near a road or other terrain feature. The objective of a hasty search is to search areas of high probability in an area quickly to a moderate probability of detection. Areas of high probability include linear features like trails, roads, streams, and drainages, and point features like cliffs, boulder fields, caves, etc.

a. Team movement during a hasty search is normally on trails and roads. Vehicles may be used on some roads, while team members walk on smaller trails.

b. In order to cover more area, the team leader often will be required to operate the team in two to three-member sections remotely from your location. This requires additional care to keep all team members safe.

c. Hasty search usually involves attraction tasks, such as yelling, horn blowing, lights at night, etc. (See the Conduct Attraction Techniques task O-0407.)

d. Sometimes, the team will be told exactly what terrain features to search. Other times, the team will be given an area to cover, and the team leader chooses where to search.

2. To plan and organize a hasty search:

a. **Determine what linear and point features to search** (unless this is specified) using a map. Take into account the past history of the area, preliminary information from investigations, and the possibility that you may be looking for someone that isn't lost, but just delayed: a "bastard" search.

1) Linear features within a search area include trails, ridge lines, drainages, and roads. These are normally places the search target might be walking (like roads), obstacles a plane might have crashed into (ridge lines), or places that allow visibility of surrounding terrain.

2) Point features are specific points of interest. They could also include isolated buildings, bridges, or other places the search target may have taken shelter. They could be high points from which a team can visually scan the area. Or they could be danger areas that might have caused the target to become lost or injured (cliffs and caves for missing persons, towers and mountain tops for airplanes).

3) Remember what your target is. A missing plane search will look at different terrain features than a missing persons search.

b. **Determine the hazards in the area** (see separate task -- Identify Natural Hazards - O-0101), so you can brief your team.

c. **Divide the team into sections** of two to three team members.

1) The ability to divide the team into sections is determined by the number of people and the ability to maintain communications with each section. The buddy system requires that no person be sent out alone, so the maximum number of sections is simply half the number of team members.. The team member may choose to make three person sections based on the assignment and the experience level of the team members.

2) Ideally each section will have radio communications with the team leader, but this is not an absolute requirement. Being in whistle range should be adequate for short periods of time.

3) Determine who will carry what team equipment, including the first aid kit, DF gear, and radios.

d. **Determine the rally point.** Where should sections go when they are done searching. It might be the start point, or it might be some other place in the area.

e. **Determine who searches what features.** Divide the work up evenly. Starting from the team's current location and trace routes for each team to the rally point. Decide if each team travels mounted or dismounted. Remember to allow more time for teams moving through rough terrain (such as "ridge running") than for teams traveling on well kept roads.

e. **Make a communications plan.** How do sections communicate -- radio or whistle? Ensure sections are always in at least whistle range of other sections. Determine check-in times and procedures with the team leader. This can be done with whistle signals.

f. **Determine lost procedures.** If there is a clearly definable terrain feature, such as a tower, that is visible from all directions, you could have lost team members move to that feature. If there is a linear terrain feature at or beyond a boundary of the search area (such as a river or highway), you could determine the azimuth to it, and have lost team members travel to it and then stop. At the very least, you could have lost personnel stationary on the trail they are on. In any case, have a plan.

g. **Brief your sections.** The briefing should include the results of all your planning. . Make each section knows exactly where to search. If maps are not available for all, drawing sketches is desirable. Brief the team on:

- 1) The chain of command for the team (who's in charge if the leader is absent or injured).
- 2) Who is in what section, and who carries what team gear.
- 3) Exactly what routes each section takes, and what they search.
- 4) The communications plan
- 5) Terrain hazards and lost procedures

- 6) Actions on clue find or target find.
- 7) Where the team leader will be located.
- 8) Specific clues to search for (remind the team what the target is).
- 9) Attraction techniques to use.

3. To conduct the hasty search, each section travels along its route, using proper scanning techniques. At point terrain features, the section stops and searches the point and it's surrounding area.

Additional Information

More detailed information on this topic is available in Chapters 7, 18, and 19 of the Ground Team Member and Leader Reference Text.

Evaluation Preparation

Setup: Provide the team leader with a map with an area to search marked on it. The leader may use any item in his field gear, including this checklist. Prepare a list of team equipment.

Brief Team Leader: Tell the team leader that he has an 8 man team (including himself) and must develop a plan for a hasty search of the marked area. Brief the team leader on what the target of the search is. Give him the list of team equipment. Tell him to brief you on his plan in 15 minutes as if you were his team.

Evaluation

Performance measures

Results

The team leader:

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| 1. Starts the briefing within 15 minutes. | P | F |
| 2. Briefs the team on: | P | F |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The chain of command and duty assignments for the team (Who's in charge in lieu of the team leader? Who is in what section, and who carries what team gear?). b. Exactly what routes each section takes, what to search, and attraction techniques to use. c. The communications plan d. Safety hazards and lost procedures e. Actions on clue find or target find. f. Where the team leader will be located. g. Specific clues to search for (remind the team what the target is). | | |

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| 3. Correctly identified the terrain features that need searching and safety hazards | P | F |
| 4. Made section assignments that: | P | F |
| a. Let each section cover a logical number of features located along a logical route | | |
| b. Cover all terrain features identified in # 1 above | | |
| c. Make use of vehicles and personnel on foot as appropriate. | | |
| 5. Developed a logical communications plan and lost procedures. | P | F |
| 6. Used all available resources, including team gear and vehicles as appropriate | P | F |

Student must receive a pass on all performance measures to qualify in this task. If the individual fails any measure, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.